

Application No.: 10/072,531  
Rule 116 Amendment dated December 5, 2005  
Reply to Office Action dated October 12, 2005  
Attorney Docket: 3464-031

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the subject patent application as follows:

### Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing multimedia programs including an audio component in a first format, said apparatus converting said audio component into a second format playable by a digital audio device that is incompatible with said first format comprising:

an input port used to receive a multimedia program;

a separator coupled to said input port and adapted to selectively separate said multimedia program to generate ~~corresponding multimedia output signals~~ and an audio signal in said first format and a video signal ;

a processor that processes said audio signal to generate a processed audio digital signal in a said second format that can be received and played by a said digital audio player; and

~~an audio output stage adapted to output said audio digital signal~~

a memory storing said processed audio signal as a digital file playable on said digital audio file .

2. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said input port is adapted to receive a broadband multimedia program.

3. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said input port includes a media reader.

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4. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said input port includes a DVD reader.
5. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said separator is adapted to generate output signals including an audio and a video component.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ~~separator is adapted to generate output signals including~~ first format includes a multichannel audio signal and wherein said second format includes a stereo audio signal.
7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4 ~~6~~ wherein said processor includes a folder circuit adapted to fold said ~~multichannel audio signal in said first format to generate said processed audio signal in said second format into a stereo channel audio signal.~~
8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first format is a compressed format and said second format is an uncompressed format, and wherein said processor further includes a compressor decompressor that compresses decompresses said stereo channel audio signal into a compressed an uncompressed processed audio digital output signal.
9. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said compressor compresses said stereo channel audio signal using an MPEG standard.
10. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said compressor compresses said stereo

channel using an ATRAC standard.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating ~~a multimedia output and~~ an audio output ~~in a format that can be played by a digital audio player from a distributed network~~ comprising:

a broadband input port adapted to receive a multimedia program from the network;

a data storage adapted to store said multimedia program;

a controller adapted to receive selections from a user and to generate commands responsive to said selections;

~~a separator~~ an extractor responsive to said commands and adapted to ~~selectively separate extract from~~ said multimedia program into ~~one of a multimedia output signal and an~~ audio signal in a first format;

a processor processing said audio signal to generate a digital output signal in a second format that is playable ~~formatted for reproduction by a digital audio reproduction device player~~;

and

~~an audio output stage outputting said digital output signal~~

a memory for storing said digital signal as an audio file playable by said digital audio player.

12. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said multimedia program is compressed and wherein said separator is adapted to decompress said multimedia program.

13. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said multimedia program is compressed using an MPEG protocol and wherein said decoder is adapted to use said MPEG protocol to decode said multimedia program.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein audio signal is a multichannel audio signal; and wherein said processor includes a folder circuit adapted to fold said multichannel audio signal, and an encoder adapted to encode the folded audio signal using a standard compression protocol to generate said digital output signal.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said encoder is adapted to encoded said folded audio signal using an MPEG protocol.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said encoder is adapted to encode said folded audio signal using an ATRAC protocol.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a multimedia program for play on an incompatible digital audio device comprising the steps of:

receiving said multimedia program, said multimedia program in a first format incompatible with said digital audio device;

~~selectively separating~~ extracting from said multimedia program ~~into at least one of a multimedia output signal and an audio signal~~ in said first format, said audio signal not being playable on said digital audio device;

processing said audio signal to generate a processed audio ~~digital output signal in a second format~~ compatible with a digital audio reproduction ~~the digital audio device~~ so that said processed audio signal is playable on the digital audio device; and

~~outputting said digital audio signal~~

saving said processed audio signal as an audio file playable on the digital audio device .

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said multimedia program is received electronically from a distribution network, further comprising storing said multimedia program.

19. (Cancelled) The method of claim 17 wherein said multimedia program is compressed using an MPEG protocol further comprising decompressing said multimedia program using the MPEG protocol to generate one of said multimedia output signal and said audio signal.

20. (Cancelled) The method of claim 17 wherein said audio signal is a multichannel audio signal, further comprising folding said multichannel audio signal into a stereo audio signal and compressing said stereo audio signal to generate said digital output signal.

21. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said processor further includes a compressor that compresses said audio signal into a compressed digital output signal.

22. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said compressor compresses said audio signal using an MPEG standard.

23. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said compressor compresses said audio signal using an ATRAC standard.

24. (Cancelled) The method of claim 17 further comprising transferring said digital output signal to a digital audio reproduction device.

25. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein said first format is a format and said second format is an uncompressed format.

26. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein first format includes a multi-channel audio signal and said second format includes a stereo channel audio signal.

27. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising extracting from said multimedia program a metadata component and storing said metadata component as part of said audio file.

28. (New) A method of processing a multimedia program for playing the program on an incompatible digital multimedia player, said method comprising:

receiving said multimedia program, said program having a first format that is not playable by the digital multimedia player;

separating said multimedia program into a video signal and an audio signal, said audio signal having a format incompatible with the digital multimedia player;

processing said audio signal to generate a processed audio signal having a second format compatible with the digital multimedia player; and

saving said processed audio signal and said video signal together as a processed multimedia file playable on the digital multimedia player.

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